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14 January 1953

MEMORANDUM TO: [REDACTED] A

SUBJECT : Interrogation Techniques

A 1. [REDACTED] says his progress in Mexico is proceeding more rapidly than expected. He has obtained excellent cooperation of the Mexicans and is accumulating some valuable information on "Piule" and similar materials.

C 2. [REDACTED] will complete his resident training in psychiatry under [REDACTED] about 15 April. He became very much interested in interrogation techniques while in Germany. Preliminary arrangements have been made for him to be assigned to one of the American hospitals in Germany. Probably he will devote a considerable amount of his time to interrogation techniques. His studies when completed would qualify him to direct a special team. It is possible that his services will be available part time to OSI or another office if he does not go to Germany.

C 3. If the services of [REDACTED], a trained hypnotist can be obtained and another man well grounded in conventional psychological interrogation and polygraph techniques, and the services of [REDACTED], a well-balanced interrogation research center could be established in an especially selected location.

4. I wish to invite your attention to the need of more intensive exploration of techniques in use by the Russians and Satellites, including China. Apparently their major emphasis is on the development of especially trained teams for obtaining information without the use of narcotics, hypnosis, or special mechanical devices which require the services of specialists. Their methods produce results which meet their objectives. The methods can be employed extensively on large numbers of persons if required, without the use of interrogation personnel difficult to recruit. The Russians and Satellites can obtain results without the use of obsolete methods of physical torture, and it would be very difficult, if not almost impossible, to prove that they do not adhere to the "Geneva Convention agreements".

5. There is evidence that they resort to mental duress and probably the above special techniques, including narcotics or stimulants under certain circumstances, but not routinely.

[REDACTED]

6. The latest information which has come to our attention on the development of teams is a report from Taipei, China, which reports the arrival in Shanghai of a "confession gang" which has been working in Peiping. According to the report, the members of this team had special training in Russia, and can obtain confessions without the use of "old-fashioned torture or drugs to obtain any confession they desire". In one case, the prisoner was not allowed to close the eyes for 24 days.

7. We have had reports on the use of lights, but none on the effects of fast and slow intense flickering lights which work while the eyelids are open or closed.

D 8. [REDACTED] says the Soviet method of obtaining information is a matter of "reactions following excessive fatigue due to loss of sleep, etc., and the threat of injury to family and relatives which was the dominating factor in breaking the morale".

B 9. "α-allyl normorphine hydrochloride, C₁₆H₁₇N₃O₂Cl, has been reported by [REDACTED] as an effective analeptic agent, and has a respiratory stimulating effect against respiratory depression caused by morphine, Methadone, Dilaudid, Dromoran, Fantopon, Demerol, Codeine, Nicotopon, and Misentil. It does not counteract non-narcotic agents. It is reported to be effective against lethal overdosage of the narcotics which might be used by some foreign countries. It is not effective against fatal doses of depressants of the central nervous, respiratory or circulatory systems due to drugs other than the narcotics.

A [REDACTED]